

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 SSM-03 EB-08 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 /100 W

-----261642Z 053509 /65

P R 261600Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9906  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 01421

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF  
SUBJECT: FCO BRIEFING ON MEETING OF EC MIDDLE EAST  
EXPERTS

REFERENCE: (A) LONDON 1360; (B) BRUSSELS 756

SUMMARY: FCO INFORMS US THAT AT FIRST MEETING OF EC  
MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS THIS YEAR, HELD JANUARY 24 AND 25,  
THEY DRAFTED CAUTIOUSLY-WORDED STATEMENTS FOR USE BY THE  
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EC FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THE EC DELEGATION AT THE FORTH-  
COMING EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. THESE WERE PROMPTLY TRANS-  
MITTED TO THE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS, WHO ARE ALSO IN  
LONDON. END SUMMARY

1. EC MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS COMMITTEE HELD ITS FIRST  
REPEAT FIRST MEETING THIS YEAR IN LONDON JANUARY 24 AND

MORNING JANUARY 25. AFTERNOON JANUARY 25 W. R. TOMKYS,  
NEW HEAD OF FCO NEAR EAST DEPARTMENT WHO HAD PRESIDED  
OVER THE MEETING, BRIEFED EMBOFF ON IT AS FOLLOWS:

2. COMMITTEE HELD LENGTHY DISCUSSION ON THE PRESENT  
SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE POSITION OF THE EC  
IN RELATION TO IT. THE DISCUSSION COVERED PROSPECTS FOR  
RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT,  
THE POSITION OF THE PLO AND THE RECENT PLO EXCHANGES WITH  
ISRAELI DOVES IN PARIS. THE DEGREE TO WHICH WALDHEIM'S  
TRIP PRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY, ISRAELI ELECTIONS, NEW  
ARAB ALIGNMENTS, AND POSSIBLE US INITIATIVES. TOMKYS SAID  
NO ONE PUSHED A LINE AND ALL AGREED THAT THE EC SHOULD  
WAIT FOR THE FACTORS DISCUSSED TO SORT THEMSELVES OUT.  
TOMKYS CHARACTERIZED THIS DISCUSSION AS "JEJEUNE".

3. TOMKYS SAID THE MORE INTERESTING PART OF THE DISCUS-  
SION CONCERNED "WHAT IS TO BE DONE". HERE THERE WAS A  
CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF COMMON GROUND. EVERYONE AGREED  
THAT THE EC MUST BE PREPARED TO PLAY AN ACTIVE PART IN  
THE MIDDLE EAST MEDIATING SITUATION AT SOME STAGE, BUT  
GIVEN THE PRESENT UNCERTAINTIES THERE WAS NO CLEAR AC-  
TIVE ROLE WHICH THE EC COULD PLAY AT PRESENT WITHOUT THE  
DANGER OF CUTTING ACROSS A U.S. EFFORT. THEREFORE THE  
EC MUST WAIT, WHILE CONTINUING TO MAINTAIN ITS OWN  
"LEGITIMATE CLAIMS". THEY AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE A  
"SCANDAL" IF THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS AFTER THEIR MEETING  
JANUARY 31 DID NOT EVEN MENTION THE MIDDLE EAST.

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4. THE EXPERTS THEREUPON TRIED THEIR HANDS AT DRAFTING A  
STATEMENT FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WHICH WOULD HAVE  
ENOUGH STRUCTURE TO STAND ON ITS OWN BUT WOULD HAVE NO  
NOVELTY IN IT WHICH WOULD CAUSE THE USG ANXIETY. THE  
DRAFT REFERS TO THE UN RESOLUTIONS OF LAST DECEMBER AND

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 ACDA-07 SSM-03  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00  
/100 W

-----261643Z 053477 /65

P R 261600Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9907

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 01421

APPROVES OF THE WALDHEIM TRIP. THE COMMITTEE WAS TIED IN KNOTS OVER THE QUESTION OF THE FORMULATION OF REPRESENTATION OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE DRAFT STATEMENT SHOULD CALL FOR ALL TO BE "APPROPRIATELY REPRESENTED" WITHOUT INTENDING TO CONFER ANY MORE RECOGNITION OF THE PLO THAN HAD BEEN DONE HITHERTO.

5. THE COMMITTEE PLANS ITS NEXT MEETING AT THE END OF  
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FEBRUARY. BY THEN IT ASSUMES THAT EC MEMBERS WILL HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF U.S. PLANS AND ACCORDINGLY EXPECTS TO PREPARE PAPERS WITH MORE SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT.

6. TOMKYS SAID THE COMMITTEE ALSO DID SOME DRAFTING FOR THE POLITICAL PASSAGES OF THE STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED BY THE EC AT THE FORTHCOMING EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE MEETING IN TUNIS. TOMKYS INDICATED THAT THESE STATEMENTS WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO THOSE THAT WOULD NOT CAUSE ANY DAMAGE TO NEGOTIATING PROSPECTS. (SEE REFTEL (A) FOR MORE DETAILED FCO BRIEFING ON THIS ISSUE.)

7. IMMEDIATELY UPON THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, THE RESULTS OF IT WERE TRANSMITTED UP TO THE LEVEL OF THE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS, WHO COMMENCED THEIR MEETING THE AFTERNOON OF THE 25TH.

8. IN VIEW OF THIS CLOSE TIMING, WE ARE PUZZLED BY THE STATEMENT OF THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN BELGIUM (REFTEL B) INDICATING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS HAD ACCESS TO A DRAFT PREPARED BY THE EC EXPERTS AT A "JANUARY 14 LONDON MEETING". WE ASSUME HE MAY BE REFERRING TO A PRELIMINARY DRAFT WHICH WAS BEING CIRCULATED AMONG THE EC MEMBERS BY TELEGRAM IN PREPARATION FOR THE JANUARY 24-25 EXPERTS MEETING.

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## Message Attributes

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